

JANICE K. BREWER GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE** 

May 6, 2010

The Honorable Ken Bennett Secretary of State 1700 W. Washington Street, 7th Floor Phoenix, AZ 85007

> Re: Senate Bill 1179 (NOW: counties; payments; reimbursements; grant revenues)

Dear Secretary Bennett:

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1179. This bill was amended to modify the payment rate for approved medical claims paid by counties with more than one million persons and exempts counties with more than two million persons from reimbursing the Department of Health Services (DHS) for the cost of commitment and treatment of sexually violent persons in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11.

Currently all counties are required to reimburse the Arizona State Hospital for 25% of the cost of care relating to sexually violent persons in the Hospital's Care. This bill would exempt Maricopa County from reimbursing the State for these services, even though nearly 60% of sexually violent persons at the Arizona State Hospital originate from that county. All other counties would be required to continue to reimburse at the current level.

The exemption of Maricopa County would reduce funding necessary to treat sexually violent persons at the Arizona State Hospital by over \$1.7 million dollars annually. As a result the Sexually Violent Person Unit's Budget would be cut by approximately 17% but the level of services required by Maricopa and other counties would not change. The lack of sufficient funding for the sexually violent persons unit could potentially lead to a major public safety risk.

For this and other reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1179.

Sincerely,

1 K Grewer

Governor

JKB/nb

The Honorable Robert Burns cc:

The Honorable Kirk Adams

The Honorable John McComish

State of Arizona Senate Forty-ninth Legislature Second Regular Session 2010

## **SENATE BILL 1179**

## AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 8-245, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 31, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 4, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 31-165; AMENDING SECTION 36-717, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING LAWS 2010, SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, CHAPTER 10, SECTION 22; RELATING TO COUNTY REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE